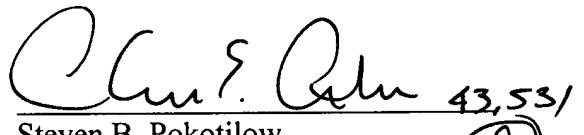


REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated February 19, 2004. Claims 1-9, 28-29, and 32-34 are currently pending in the application. Of these, claims 1, 28-29 and 32-34 are independent. Claims 1-9 and 29 have been allowed and claims 28 and 32-34 stand rejected in the outstanding Office Action. In this Amendment, rejected claims 28 and 32-34 have been cancelled without prejudice to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, allowed claims 1-9 and 29 remain pending in this application, and Applicants respectfully maintain that this application is in condition for allowance.

No fee, other than the one month extension fee, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if any additional fee is required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,


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